

THE ARISTOCRACY OF BRIDGE

A Means Now Available by Which Certain Gifted Women Can Get Along in Society.

Two women at the matinee watched two others walk down the aisle. One of the late arrivals turned and bowed to them. "Well, do you ever?" one of the two exclaimed. "How in the world did that girl ever get with Mrs. X? Mrs. X is one of the biggest snobs in New York, and that girl doesn't know anybody in her set. I'm astonished!"

"She not only knows Mrs. X very well," answered the companion of the astonished woman, "but she now knows a great many other fashionable people besides. She was at Newport two weeks this summer and she's getting in deeper every day. Bridge did it."

"Oh," returned the first woman, apparently quite satisfied with the explanation. "I have seen her in any of the houses at one of the bridge club meetings last winter. She seemed to be very much in demand among the women, although I thought her rather ordinary. I couldn't understand why all the women were so keen to have her for a partner."

"You'd have understood if you played the game," her friend went on. "You were only looking on. She plays a splendid game, and I bet the woman that played with her won. That's the only thing that counts now with women who play bridge."

The young woman who had caused this discussion was in fact of a social sphere quite different from that in which her companion and the women who were discussing her belonged, and it was her skill in playing the game so popular in society that had gained for her the friendship of the woman who was with her.

A chance meeting at a summer hotel where the two had played cards revealed the girl's ability as a player. Later when she formed a bridge class in town the society matron invited the girl, knowing that she would probably have a chance to play with her frequently and also give her a good deal of her own time.

"You know there are women," went on the bridge player who had given the first explanation, "who would play bridge with a yellow dog rather than go without it, and I'm one of those women. To get hold of a good player, pleasure enough to pay for having to associate with almost any kind of a person."

"That's what made the bridge aristocracy," as they call it now. Lots of women who nobody ever heard of are almost in society now—at least, they're in bridge society."

"I'll tell you what happened to a friend of mine who got up a bridge class with another woman I know. It was going to be very exclusive, and it didn't make any difference how well a woman played, if she wasn't a person that all of us had known for years she wasn't to come in."

"Well, one of the women struggled to get in a girl that, according to her story, was a wonder. There was nothing against her, and she was a very nice sort of person, only some of us knew anything about her, and it was decided to keep her out."

"But her friend made such a row that we had to let her come in. She got in, and she did play like a streak. Everybody fought for her, and after the first month she was the most popular woman in that club."

"Her friend, on the other hand, was a terror. She played badly and so slowly that the women who had to wait for her were going to wait for her to decide what she was going to do, and then she did the wrong thing in the end."

"The club was to last only a month, and at the end of that time it broke up. Well, what do you suppose the woman did who had been one of the two to get up the club?"

"She went to the girl that she had tried to keep out of the club. She asked her to join in getting up another with the same members. They were going to leave only one of them out of the new club. And who do you suppose that one was? It was the very woman who had helped to get up the first club and fought so hard that the girl got in."

"The value of a good front credit man tells how he sizes up a stranger. Think of cashing \$2,000 worth of checks every day for folks you don't know—Department Stores Take Chances on the Say-So of Their Mindreaders."

Suppose it was your business, day in and day out, year in and year out, to pass upon the trustworthiness of folks who wanted to buy things without paying for them—without paying cash, that is to say. Suppose that a steady stream of such people were passing before you all day long, retail buyers, whose financial standing and habits it would be pretty difficult to determine with any approach to accuracy—how would you size 'em up?"

Would you judge largely by their clothes? Would you permit yourself to be guided by their manners? Would you join the physiognomists and try to read their faces?

And if you did all of these things, having cooked all these impressions up together and removed the scum, would you be likely to get the clear essence of "O. K." or "N. G." in most cases?

In every big department store there are a keen-witted man and a keen-witted assistant who sit in an office marked "Department of Accounts," and a large part of their time is spent in just this kind of chemistry. It must be that in a vast majority of cases they are correct in their deductions, otherwise the system would not be pursued.

This being true, they surely may be regarded as among the best of the lightning calculators of human character.

"We have to judge largely by appearance in many cases," said one of these credit experts a few days ago. "For example, one of the commonest transactions in our business is the cashing of checks for people whom we don't know."

"Women, don't have every day, especially when you're in the South, who are visiting and shopping in New York. They have brought checks with them from home and they ask us to cash them, deduct the check from their purchases and give them the balance in cash."

"They're good buyers, too, because they use enough at one time to last for a long time, and their trade can't be overlooked or neglected. We cash from \$2,000 to \$3,000 worth of such checks here every day, and 'hat comes in the course of a year pretty well on to \$1,000,000."

PRETTY HANDS FOR EVERYONE

LITTLE TRICKS THAT BEAUTY SEEKERS SHOULD KNOW.

Palms Should Be Pink and the Up-to-Date Young Woman Lets Them Be Seen—Three Shapes for the Finger Nails—Secrets of Soft White Hands.

The pretty girl, as she marches onward into the realm of perfect beauty, does not forget her hands.

It is not alone the back of the hand which receives attention, but the palm also. And, when you study a pretty girl, you will observe that she sits, not with her hands crossed in her lap, but with her hands exposed and the hands spread leisurely out.

It is a helpless, an appealing, a pretty attitude of the hands, this fashion of exposing the palms; and the girl who wants to produce good effects will learn how to do it. You can experiment by laying both hands in your lap, backs down, and by straightening the fingers slightly so as to show the pink inner part.

And the palms must be pink. Pale hands are not pretty and the palm that is mottled or gray or blue is never admired.

There are palms that are dry and show a wrinkled surface. Such hands feel very hot and the flesh has a crinkled look, as though it had been sunned and tanned and dried. This dryness of the palms is the first sign of old age, and the woman who feels it coming should hasten to use a hand lotion to keep her flesh in good order.

Sarah Bernhardt, at one period, kept her palms a pale saffron. But it was not a good style; and in the striking contrast to this, many French actresses hastened to rouge the palms, making them as pink as could be.

There are women who rub a little dry rouge into the palms of the hands and they sometimes powder the backs also. It certainly gives the hands a pretty and a healthy tone, for pink finger tips and pink palms are very attractive.

A good hand and nail emollient is absolutely necessary for certain persons whose flesh is inclined to dry and crackle. For these people the hands must be a daily treat, and the hands will age very rapidly and grow sadly out of shape.

The knotty condition of certain hands is the sign of old age, and the woman who has this condition should use a hand lotion to keep her hands in good order.

The first signs of old age are observed, not in the face, but in the hands. At 30 a gradual and almost imperceptible change begins to come over the hands, and at 40 this is clearly defined. The hands begin to lose their softness and the flesh begins to shrink, and the bones begin to appear under the skin.

The remedy for this is plain. As the skin dries from the loss of moisture, the skin must be replaced. The natural oils of the skin must be restored and the hand must be made moist and pliable and soft. If its beauty is to be retained.

And this is easy. A certain woman whose hands had been neglected until they were cracked and chapped, and who had lost all color except a faded pink, went to a manicure to have her hands treated.

The manicure, who was a wise woman, took a bowl of water, and into it she dropped a few drops of oil, and she dipped the hands of her patient in the oil. Keeping them there for some minutes she took them out and gently massaged them. There was not a particle of oil on the surface.

If this treatment is applied patiently and intelligently, and for fifteen minutes at a time, the hands will begin to plump, and the skin to be pretty again. The hands should not be washed afterward, for the oil will surely sink in, if they are well massaged.

There is a girl in society who is noted for her beautiful hands. They are lovely in shape and color, and she has a certain grace about them. This young woman never goes to bed without washing her hands in very hot water and soap.

She scrubs them with a flesh brush until they are clean. She then rinses them with half a dozen perfectly clear hot waters. And finally she massages a lump of cold cream into them, and she rubs them white and whiten them and does them a world of good.

In the morning they are beautifully soft. And, after the hands have been polished, the hands are in good shape for the day. The color of the nails is a matter to be carefully considered.

The nails should be the color of a rose leaf and clear as crystal. Mother of pearl, if it were a little rosier, would about describe the texture of the ideal nail.

They are caused by pressure upon the base of the nail. If a metal instrument is used, or if a wooden scraper is employed, or if there is anything rough applied to the base of the nail, the result will be a white mark across it.

A great many manicures do not know this, and the result is a very apparent upon the nails in the shape of the great long white streaks, which make the nails look very unattractive. These white marks are the sign of illness of the nails. These nails are out of condition or the marks would not be there.

Instead of employing a hard substance to press back the skin at the base of the nail, it is better to soak the finger tips in hot water and to press back the cuticle with the finger nail, and will not disfigure them in the least.

The nails are treated with a dry and ragged cuticle can soak the finger tips every day in olive oil. This will soften the cuticle and keep the nails from breaking.

A very good emollient for the nails is made by taking equal parts of mutton tallow, olive oil, and oil of sweet almonds. When melted together, and with a few drops of geranium.

The beauty of the nails depends upon the shape of the nail. The longer the nail, the longer the better is the rule, but long nails are likely to break.

Nails can be cut in one of three ways. There is the pointed nail, which is the prettiest of all, but must be kept exact; and unless one can do this, it is better to cut the nail round.

The rounded nail is the nail of the business woman, and it is a pretty nail if it is kept well shaped. All the nails should be kept of the same shape, and a high polish is again permissible.

There is the blunt nail, which is the nail of the professional woman, the woman who plays the piano, and the woman who must use her finger tips. The trained nurse, the woman physician and the woman typewriter are among the women whose nails should not be long enough to annoy her.

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